

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are pending. No new matter has been added by way of the present amendment. For instance, claims 4-6 have simply been cancelled. Also, the Abstract and claims 1 and 2 have been amended to remove parentheses. The Abstract has also been amended to be limited to a single paragraph. Thus, no new matter has been added.

In view of the following remarks Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and allow the currently pending claims.

Certified Copy of Priority Document

The Examiner notes that no copy of the certified priority document is in the application filed. Applicants note that the present application is the national stage in the U.S. of PCT/JP00/01955. The International Bureau will furnish the certified copy of the priority document.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner notes that the Information Disclosure Statement submitted on December 20, 2001, the Japanese Abstracts have been crossed out since they should have correctly been cited under other documents. Applicants thank the Examiner for reciting these abstracts on the PTO-892 Form attached to the outstanding Office Action.

Objection to the Abstract of the Disclosure

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract of the Disclosure since it has two paragraphs. Applicants traverse and submit that the newly submitted Abstract has only one paragraph. Thus, this objection is moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

Issues Under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for the reasons recited at page 3 of the outstanding Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse and submit that claims 4-6 have been cancelled. This is a non-narrowing amendment. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

At subheading 7 on page 3 of the outstanding Office Action the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-3 are allowed. Since these are the only remaining pending claims, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowability is respectfully solicited.

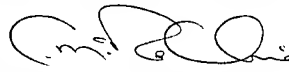
Docket No. 1752-0147P

If the Examiner has any questions or comments, please contact Craig A. McRobbie, Registration No. 42,874 at the offices of Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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1752-0147P

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